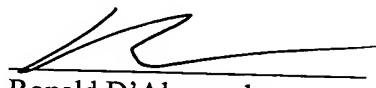


cannabinoids or cannabinoid metabolites in a subject, and method for assessing the permeability of skin to a cannabinoid. Further, the claimed method for relieving symptoms, for increasing the concentration of cannabinoids or cannabinoid metabolites in a subject, and for assessing the permeability of skin to a cannabinoid are sufficiently related in their processing. Thus, it is submitted that a search for the methods for relieving symptoms claims 1-11 will include the subject matter of claims 12-22, claims 23-26 and claims 27-28. "Where the claims of an application define the same essential characteristics of a *single* disclosed embodiment of an invention, restriction therebetween should never be required. This is because the claims are but different definitions of the same disclosed subject matter, varying in breath or scope of definition." MPEP § 806.03 (emphasis in original).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement. Should the examiner require anything further from Applicants, the examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald D'Alessandro
Reg. No. 42,456

Date: 7/7/03

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
Three E-Comm Square
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 449-0044
(518) 449-0047 (fax)